

## MINUTES

### TALBOT COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

9 January 2012

#### I. ROLL CALL

The regular monthly meeting of the Talbot County Historic Preservation Commission was called to order at 3:08 PM on Monday, 9 January 2012. Those members in attendance were Mr. Ward Bucher, Chairperson; Mrs. Marsha Kacher, Ms. Alice Marie Gravely, Ms. Peggy Pickall, Mr. Robert Amdur. Mr. Ron B. Mitchell was absent. Representing the County were Mr. Martin Sokolich and Ms. Florence Ball.

#### II. CURRENT BUSINESS

- A. REVIEW MINUTES OF 5 December 2011 TCHPC MEETING – The minutes of the last meeting were read. No errors or additions were noted. A motion was made to approve the minutes as corrected, was seconded and unanimously carried.
- B. LETTER FOR SAMPLE SURVEY – Mr. Ron Mitchell is drafting the letter and he was not present; therefore, further discussion regarding the letter was tabled until the next meeting.
- C. MILLER'S HOUSE IN WYE MILLS (T-70) – Mr. Ward Bucher reported that the emergency structural stabilization work at the Miller's House is nearing completion, other than some underpinning that may be needed at one corner of the building. Ms. Alice Marie Gravely asked if the cemetery will be included in the preservation work, and Mr. Bucher replied affirmatively.

Ms. Gravely asked if the champion fir tree might be added to the National Register for historic trees. Mr. Bucher said someone should volunteer to apply for that. Mr. Martin Sokolich advised that the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) website has a form to list historic trees. Ms. Gravely expressed concern that any excavations which may take place during the restoration work may disturb or damage the roots. Ms. Florence Ball suggested conferring with Elisa Deflaux, Environmental Planner, about that issue since she has experience regarding the protection of champion trees. Ms. Gravely mentioned that a linden tree may also qualify for registration as an historic tree. She volunteered to apply for the registration.

- D. STATUS OF TCHPC COLUMN IN SHORE LIFE MAGAZINE – Mr. Ward Bucher said he took the outline Ms. Peggy Pickall wrote after researching the history of Bellevue and Clays Hope (T-189) and condensed it to comply with the 600 word limit, and utilized some of the editing suggested by fellow Commissioners and staff. He advised that it has been submitted to the editor before the deadline, which was 1 January 2012.

After some discussion, it was decided that topic for the next article should be Beverly (T-240). Ms. Alice Marie Gravely volunteered to write the article, since she owns that property and has a book on its history.

### **III. NEW BUSINESS**

- A. EDUCATION AND TRAINING FOR TCHPC COMMISSIONERS - Mr. Martin Sokolich distributed the MAHDC newsletter Historic Districts, and pointed out information in the newsletter regarding an online course available on the MAHDC website for historic preservation commissioners. He urged the Commissioners to take the course, since it is ideal for providing a solid understanding of the basic tools needed to be an effective, more organized historic preservation commissioner, and also provides reference materials that could be downloaded and inserted in the TCHPC binder. Mr. Sokolich also distributed new reference binders, describing the various sections that cover topics such as Parliamentary Procedure and Defensible Decision Making. Ms. Alice Marie Gravely distributed information about various online topics available on the National Park Service website. Mr. Ward Bucher asked Mr. Sokolich if educational requirements for commissioners are statutory. Mr. Sokolich explained that a CLG (Certified Local Government) requires a minimum number of education hours each year to maintain the CLG certification. Other educational opportunities from various organizations such as Preservation Maryland were also discussed briefly.
- B. JANUARY SITE VISIT – Mr. Robert Amdur advised that the site visit to Jena (T-163) will be on Monday, 23 January 2012. Those attending are to meet at the Acme parking lot in Easton at 2:45 pm. It was discussed that there will be no site visits in February and March. Arrangements will be made for the next site visit to be in April at Knox (T-172). Further information will be provided as that time draws near.

### **IV. OPEN FLOOR**

- A. FILLING THE EMPTY TCHPC SEAT – Mrs. Marsha Kacher asked if there was any word regarding a new Commissioner. Mr. Martin Sokolich replied that to date, the County Council has not advised of an appointment for that position.

NEXT MEETING: Monday, 6 February 2012, at 3:00 pm in Conference Room One of the Talbot County Office Building at 215 Bay Street in Easton.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 3:50 pm.

11 January 2012